GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1769
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
FOURTH CELLULAR LICENCES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications is planning to invite fresh bids for fourth cellular licences in West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar;

(b) if so, whether more and more companies have shown keen interest in bidding for West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): Sir, tenders were invited in March, 2001 for grant of fresh licences as well as filling up of vacant slots for Cellular Mobile telephone Service in Andaman & Nicobar and West Bengal Telecom Circles. No bids were received for Andman & Nicobar, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal Telecom Circles. Accordingly, Department of Telecommunications decided to seek recommendations of Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI recommendations have since been received; however, the Government is yet to take a decision in the matter.